Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BELGRA 06626 01 OF 02 170754Z

14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 DHA-02 BIB-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 /085 W
---------- 066110
R 161529Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5019
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 6626

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR YO BU
SUBJ: YUGOSLAV OUTBURSTS AGAINST BULGARIA

REF: BELGRADE 6168

1. SUMMARY. YUGOSLAV CRITICAL CRESCENDO AGAINST BULGARIA HAS RISEN SHARPLY OVER PAST WEEK. MAJOR TOPICS ARE THE RECENTLY-COMPLETED FOURTH BULGARIAN CENSUS, DESCRIBED HERE AS "STATISTICAL GENOCIDE", AND BULGARIAN "FALSIFICATIONS OF HISTORY" WHICH GLORIFY ROLE OF BULGARIAN FASCISTS IN SECOND WORLD WAR AND DENY ETHNIC IDENTITY OF MACEDONIANS. VOLUME OF PROTEST APPEARS TO HAVE PEAKED, BUT PUBLICATION OF CENSUS RESULTS LATER THIS MONTH WILL PROBABLY CAUSE NEW POLEMICAL UPSURGE. MOST OMINOUS CHARGE IS THAT BULGARIAN ATTITUDE REPRESENTS "TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS" BY BULGARIA TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA. AN FSFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF BULGARIAN AFFAIRS CHARACTERIZED BULGARIANS TO US AS SOVIETS "VISITING CARD" IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. PIRIN MACEDONIANS: FOURTH BULGARIAN CENSUS, CONCLUDED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BELGRA 06626 01 OF 02 170754Z

DEC 11, HAS LED TO UNIVERSAL CONDEMNATIONS IN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

YUGOSLAV PRESS. CENSUS RESULTS WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL
END OF DEC, BUT IT IS ASSUMED HERE THAT ONE
MAJOR RESULT WILL BE CONTINUED SHRINKAGE, PERHAPS EVEN
DISAPPEARANCE, OF PIRIN MACEDONIAN MINORITY (WHICH IN
1940'S WAS REPORTEDLY AROUND 350,000). OVER PAST WEEK
MOST MAJOR DAILIES (DELO, VJESNIK, NOVA MAKEDONIJA,
POLITIKA) HAVE PUBLISHED EDITORIALS PROTESTING BULGARIA'S
CENSUS-TAKING PROCEDURES. POLITIKA DEC 7
EDITORIAL BY PREDRAG VUKOVIC LABELLED CENSUS AS "A
TRANSPARENT AND EXTREMELY HARMFUL ATTEMPT....TO
PERFORM ANOTHER STATISTICAL GENOCIDE SIMILAR TO THE ONE
IN 1965 WHEN--IN THE COURSE OF LESS THAN A DECADE--
179,039 MACEDONIANS SIMPLY 'VANISHED'." VUKOVIC
CHARGED BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES WERE USING PRESSURES
AND THREATS TO FORCE PIRIN MACEDONIANS TO DECLARE
THEMSELVES BULGARIANS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE SAID,
INHABITANTS OF PIRIN REGION HAD BEEN LECTURED, INTER-
ROGATED, DEPRIVED OF DOCUMENTS, AND EVEN ARRESTED,
THOSE WHO STILL RESISTED HAD BEEN DEPORTED TO
SPECIAL CAMPS IN NORTHERN BULGARIA. VUKOVIC CONCLUDED
THAT SUCH BEHAVIOR WAS "ABSOLUTELY CONTRARY TO WISHES
FOR GOOD MUTUAL RELATIONS".

3. DELO (LJUBLJANA) CALLED THE CENSUS "REACTIONARY
AND NAIVE", WHILE NOVA MAKEDONIJA AND VJESNIK CONCLUDED
THAT WITH THE CENSUS BULGARIA HAD NOT ONLY DENIED THE
EXISTENCE OF THE PIRIN MACEDONIA MINORITY BUT HAD ALSO
VOICED "TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA".

4. KOMMUNIST DEC 15 EDITORIAL SIGNED WITH
INITIALS "CH. LJ." ESCALATED NAME-CALLING ONE STEP
FURTHER WITH CHARGE THAT CENSUS WAS EXAMPLE OF "BULGARIAN
NATIONALISM IN SOCIALIST CLOTHING". EDITORIAL SAID
THAT THE BULGARIAN THEORY OF SOCIALIST STATE WAS "FOUNDED
ON THE TYPICAL STALINIST MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIAL
ROLE OF THE NATION AND ON STALIN'S DIVISION OF NATIONS
INTO 'BOURGEOIS AND SOCIALIST' ONES, I.E., THE
ASSUMPTION THAT A NATION CAN BECOME SOCIALIST THROUGH
ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS, THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF THE
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF THE LARGEST NATIONAL GROUP IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

A MULTINATIONAL COMMUNITY." EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH
PARTING SHOT THAT "THE FORCIBLE CREATION OF A 'NEW
SOCIALIST NATION' OF THE CLASSICAL TYPE IS ALWAYS
AND SHALL ALWAYS BE ONLY THE IDEOLOGY OF NATIONAL
OPPRESSION AND GREAT POWER HEGEMONISM."

5. DEC 15 VECERNJE NOVOSTI (BELGRADE) PUBLISHED
INTERVIEW WITH PETAR DJULEGOROV, DISTRICT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

COMMITTEE SECRETARY OF BLAGEOVGRAD, PIRIN MACEERNIA'S
FIRST CITY. IN AN EXTRAORDINARILY POINTED EXCHANGE WITH
MILAN NIKOLIC (VECERNJE NOVOSTI REPORTER), DJULEGOROV
GAVE STANDARD BULGARIAN REBUTTAL TO YUGOSLAV ARGU-
MENTS. IN HIS VIEW MACEDONIAN NATION NEVER EXISTED UNTIL
YUGOSLAVS CREATED AT AFTER THE WAR, AND NOW BULGARIANS
IN YUGOSLAVIA WERE BEING ASSIMILATED INTO THIS
ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT. BULGARIAN PARTY LEADERS HAD
ERRED IN 1946 WHEN THEY PRESSURED INHABITANTS OF PIRIN
REGION INTO DECLARING
THEMSELVES MACEDONIAN, BUT
ERROR HAD BEEN CORRECTED AND NOW PIRIN REGION HAD A
"100 PERCENT BULGARIAN POPULATION". NO
ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES WERE TAKEN AGAINST PEOPLE
WHO DECLARED THEMSELVES MACEDONIAN, DJULEGOROV SAID,
AND HE WISHED THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD STOP MEDDLING IN
BULGARIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NIKOLIC CONCLUDED THAT
"BULGARIAN LEADERS ANGIRILY DENY EVERY WORD WRITTEN IN
OUR PRESS...BUT ADMIT IT TO THEMSELVES."

6. ANOTHER COUNTRY HEARD FROM: DENH15 BORBA
PUBLISHED A SMALL EXERPT FROM GREEK "EXTREME RIGHT-
WING PAPER ESTIJA" WHICH READ IN PART: "INREALITY THE MACEDONIAN
PEOPLE DOES NOT EXIST, AND YUGOSLAVIA'S
INSISTENCE ON THE DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM
REPRESENTS NOTHING MORE THAN AN UNFRIENDLY POLICY
TOWARDS GREECE". BORBA CONTEMPTUOUSLY DISMISSED
ESZDA EDITORIAL AS AN ATTEMPT BY "THE DARK FORCES OF
REACTION" TO RENEW THEIR CAMPAIGN OF LIES AGAINST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BELGRA 06626 02 OF 02 170708Z

14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 BIB-01 DHA-02 EB-07 ACDA-05 /085 W
---------- 065768
R 161529Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5020

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

AMEMBASSY SOFIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 6626

YUGOSLAVIA.

7. FALSIFICATION OF HISTORY: BULGARIAN WAR ROLE HAS BEEN CONTINUING SOURCE OF FRICTION AND CONTROVERSY BETWEEN SOFIA AND BELGRADE OVER THE YEARS. LATEST FLAP APPEARS TO HAVE ARISEN OVER BULGARIAN ATTEMPTS TO PROVE THAT BULGARIAN FASCIST ARMY AIDED BALKAN REBELLIONS AGAINST HITLER'S FORCES, AND THAT THESE REVOLTS WERE FIRST LED BY BULGARIANS LIVING IN GREECE AND MACEDONIA. ARTICLE TO THIS EFFECT ALLEGEDLY PUBLISHED IN SOFIA'S "MILITARY-HISTORICAL JOURNAL", BY COLONER JOSIF ILEL, HAS MET WITH STORMY PROTESTS IN BORBA (DECEMBER 7) AND NOVA MAKEDONIJA (DECEMBER 13). BORBA DEVOTED SMALL ARTICLE TO REBUTTAL, CHARACTERIZING ILEL'S ASSERTIONS AS "ABSURD", WHILE NOVA MAKEDONIJA WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL AND CONTRADICTED ILEL'S THESIS AT EVERY POINT, CONCLUDING THAT "ONE CANNOT HELP ASKING WHETHER THEY (BULGARIANS) HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL THE TRENDS WHICH SIGNIFIED THE OCCUPATION, AND ALL THE ATTRIBUTES WHICH THEY HAD IN THE WELL-KNOWN STYLE ADOPTED BY FASCIST INVADERS, REGARDLESS OF COLOR, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY WERE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

GERMAN OR BULGARIAN."

8. IN A POSTSCRIPT TO THE PRESENT "FALSIFICATION OF HISTORY" DEBATE, BOTH BORBA AND POLITIKA CARRIED TANJUG DECEMBER 15 DISPATCH REPORTING APPEARANCE OF NEW BOOK BY BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES TITLED "BULGARIA AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES." THE BOOK, DEDICATED TO WELL-KNOWN BULGARIAN HISTORIAN TUSHE VLAHOV, WAS FAULTED FOR CONTAINING NUMBEROUS HISTORICAL INACCURACIES AND MORALLY QUESTIONABLE ASSUMPTIONS. TANJUG TOOK UMBRAGE AT " ' SCIENTIFIC' " PROOFS THAT MACEDONIANS DID NOT EXIST, AND NOTED THAT "THE AUTHORS OF THIS BOOK DID NOT CRITICIZE THE BULGARIAN BOURGEOISIE BECAUSE THEY ASPIRED TO CONQUER MACEDONIA, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THEY DID,T SUCCEED IN DOING SO."

9. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV POLEMICS, WHICH HAVE BEEN ON INCREASE SINCE BULGARIAN FONMIN MLADENOV'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA NOVEMBER 11-13, HAVE REACHED A NATURAL PEAK

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

WITH CONCLUSION OF FOURTH BULGARIAN CENSUS, AND FROM THIS POINT ON THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO DECLINE SOMEWHAT IN FEROCITY AND VOLUME. BUT YUGOSLAV PRESS WILL CONTINUE TO BLAST WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE BULGARIAN "FLASIFI-CATIONS OF HISTORY" WHENEVER BULGARIANS GIVE THEM THE CHANCE. AT SAME TIME YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN DEBATE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE IMPAIRED MUTUAL DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. DECEMBER 16 NEW AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED DESIGNED TO TRIPLE YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN TRADE OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS (FIGURES NOT ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION).

10. ON BALANCE THOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT OVERALL YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN RELATIONSHIP IS EXPERIENCING HEAVY WEATHER. FSFA OFFICER IN CHARGE OF BULGARIAN AFFAIRS TOLD US RATHER EMOTIONALLY THAT BULGARIANS HAD TO REALIZE THEY LIVING IN 20TH NOT 15TH CENTURY AND THAT IN POST-HELSINKI ENVVIRONEMENT THEY COULD NO LONGER ACT AS SOVIETS' "VISITING CARD" IN EUROPE IF THEY WANTED TO BE ACCEPTED AS NORMAL MEMBER OF COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. SWEITZER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CENSUS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA06626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750438-0314
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751237/aaaabgiu.tel
Line Count: 242
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELGRADE 6168
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV OUTBURSTS AGAINST BULGARIA
TAGS: PFOR, YO, BU
To: STATE SOFIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006